

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 – 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (new): A composition in the form of an inverse latex comprising:

- a) from 50% by weight to 80% by weight of at least one linear, branched or crosslinked organic polymer (P);
- b) from 5% by weight to 10% by weight of an emulsifying system (S₁) of water-in-oil (W/O) type;
- c) from 5% by weight to 45% by weight of at least one oil; and
- d) from 0% to 5% by weight of water.

Claim 17 (new): The composition of claim 16, in which the polymer (P) is:

- a) either a homopolymer of a monomer chosen either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from cationic monomers;
- b) or a copolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers;
- c) or a terpolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers; and
- d) or a tetrapolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers.

Claim 18 (new): The composition of claim 16, in which the polymer (P) is crosslinked with a diethylene or polyethylene compound in the molar proportion,

expressed with respect to the monomers employed, of 0.005% to 1%, preferably of 0.01% to 0.2% and more particularly of 0.01% to 0.1%.

Claim 19 (new): The composition of claim 18, for which the crosslinking agent and/or the branching agent is chosen from ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol diacrylate, sodium diallyloxyacetate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diallylurea, triallylamine, trimethylolpropane triacrylate or methylenebis(acrylamide).

Claim 20 (new): The composition of claim 16, for which the monomer possessing a strong acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises is partially or completely salified 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid.

Claim 21 (new): The composition of claim 16, for which the monomers possessing a weak acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from partially or completely salified acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid or 3-methyl-3-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]butanoic acid.

Claim 22 (new): The composition of claim 16, for which the monomers possessing a weak acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from acrylamide, methacrylamide, diacetone acrylamide, dimethylacrylamide, N-isopropylacrylamide, N-[2-hydroxy-1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl]propenamide, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl methacrylate, an ethoxylated derivative with a molecular weight of between 400 and 1000 of each of these esters, or vinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 23 (new): The composition of claim 16, for which the cationic monomers which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from 2,N,N,N-tetramethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium, 2,N,N-tri-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium, N,N, N-trimethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]ethanammonium, N, N,N-trimethyl-3-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]propanammonium, N,N,N-trimethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium or diallyldimethylammonium salts.

Claim 24 (new): The composition of claim 16, in which the polymer (P) is chosen from:

- a) crosslinked copolymers of acrylic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt or ammonium salt form, and of acrylamide;

- b) crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, and of acrylamide;
- c) crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid and of acrylic acid, which are partially salified in the sodium salt form;
- d) crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, and of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate;
- e) crosslinked copolymers of acrylamide and of N,N,N-trimethyl-3-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)propanammonium;
- f) crosslinked homopolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form;
- g) crosslinked homopolymers of acrylic acid, partially salified in the ammonium salt or monoethanolamine salt form;
- h) terpolymers of acrylamide, of N,N,N-trimethyl-3-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)propanammonium and of [tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethyl]acrylamide;
- i) crosslinked terpolymers of acrylamide, of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid and of acrylic acid, which are partially salified in the sodium salt form; and
- j) terpolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, of acrylamide and of vinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 25 (new): The composition of claim 16, comprising from 60% by weight to 70% by weight of polymer (P).

Claim 26 (new): The composition of claim 16, additionally comprising up to 5% of its weight of an emulsifying system (S₂) of oil-in-water (O/W) type.

Claim 27 (new): A process for the preparation of the composition as defined above, characterized in that:

- a) an aqueous phase (A) comprising the monomers and the optional hydrophilic additives is emulsified in an organic phase (O) comprising the surfactant system (S₁), a mixture composed of the oil intended to be

present in the final composition and of a volatile oil, and the optional hydrophobic additives,

- b) the polymerization reaction is initiated by introduction of an initiator of free radicals into the emulsion formed in a) and then the reaction is allowed to take place, and
- c) the reaction medium resulting from stage b) is concentrated by distillation until said volatile oil has been completely removed.

Claim 28 (new): The process of claim 27, in which, on conclusion of stage c), one or more emulsifying agents of oil-in-water type is/are introduced at a temperature of less than 50°C.

Claim 29 (new): The use of the composition of claim 16 as thickener and/or emulsifier for a cosmetic, dermopharmaceutical or pharmaceutical topical composition.

Claim 30 (new): The use of the composition of claim 16 as thickener for textile printing pastes.